

*Discovering Denbigh:
Membership Introduction Class*

Teacher's Guide



DENBIGH baptist
church

Worshipping God by Making Disciples

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Church Gospel

The Keys of the Gospel

- God
 - CREATOR (Gen. 1:1)
 - ETERNAL (Ps. 90:2)
 - HOLY (Isa. 6:3, Matt. 5:48)
- Man/Sin
 - All are SINNERS (Rom. 3:10-18, 23)
 - All deserve DEATH (Rom. 6:23)
- Jesus Christ
 - Sinless OBEDIENCE (1 Pet. 2:21-24)
 - Substitutionary DEATH (Rom. 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Response
 - REPENT (Acts 2:38)
 - Confess and BELIEVE (Rom. 10:9-10)

The Security of the Gospel

- Adopted by God (Gal. 4:4-7, Rom. 8:15 [planned in the past])
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:21-22, Eph. 1:13-14 [purchased on the cross])
- Protected by God's power (Jn. 10:27-29, 1 Pet. 1:4-5 [promised through faith])

The Growth from the Gospel

- Bible Study (Ps. 1:1-2, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Prayer (Phil. 4:6-8; Jas. 4:2-3, 5:13-18)
- Fellowship/Service (Heb. 10:24-25, 1 Cor. 12)

Church Doctrine

The Inspiration of the Scriptures

We believe that the whole Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writings and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Rev. 22:18, 19)

The True God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that they are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Deut. 6:4, 5; Matt. 28:19; John 14:16, 17, 26; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17)

The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was born of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; that He was born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of a woman; and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 5:20)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature. It is He who convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the restrainer of the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled. He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel and is the agent in the new birth. (Matt. 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 14:16, 17, 26; 16:7-11; 2 Thess. 2:7; Heb. 9:14)

The Devil or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors, but, through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world system. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions and the chief power behind the present apostasy. He is the Lord of the Anti-Christ and the author of all the powers of darkness; destined, however, to eternal judgment in hell, a

place prepared for the Devil and his angels. (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Thess. 3:5; 2 Thess. 2:8-11; 1 Pet. 5:8; Jude 6; Rev. 19:11-20)

The Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of the creation and that it is to be accepted literally and not allegorically or figuratively, and that man was created directly in God's own image and likeness. (Gen. 1:1; Gen. 1:26, 27; John 1:1-4; Col. 1:16, 17)

The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy estate. As a result of this fall, all mankind are now sinners; not by constraint, but by choice; and therefore under the just condemnation of God without defense or excuse. (Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:1-3)

Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; that Jesus Christ, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience; and by His substitutionary death made a full and vicarious atonement for the sins of the human race. (John 3:16; Rom. 3:24, 25; Eph. 2:8; Heb. 7:25; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18)

Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace, which is according to foreknowledge; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel. It is the immediate duty of all to accept, by faith, God's offer of salvation. The only hindrance to salvation of any sinner is his own inherent depravity and present unbelief which, if continued in, merits the just condemnation of a holy God. (John 3:18,36; Rom. 8:29-30; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; Tit. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:2)

Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing, which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin

and the gift of eternal life on the principles of righteousness. We believe that His righteousness is imputed unto us solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done. (Acts 13:39; Rom. 1:17; 4:1-8; 5:1,9; 8:1; Tit. 3:5-7)

The Church

We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ was inaugurated at Pentecost and must be considered in two aspects: the "Church which is His Body" and the local church. The "Church which is His Body" is the entire company of believers in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, regardless of denominational affiliation and present position in heaven or on earth. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:12, 13; Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:18)

We believe that the local church is a congregation of believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ and governed by His laws. We believe the true mission of the church is to follow the great commission, Matt. 28:19, 20: first, make individual disciples; second, build up the church; third, instruct and teach as He has commanded. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from any interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that the one and only head is the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Cor. 11:2)

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion [HOW] of a believer [WHO] into water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This act is a solemn and beautiful demonstration of our union with our Savior in His death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that the believer is to avail himself of the opportunity of remembering the Lord at the communion table by sacred use of the bread and cup, which commemorate the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on his behalf. We believe the above ordinances are for this age. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:41, 42 [WHO/HOW]; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5 [HOW]; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

The Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. (John 5:28, 29; 1 Cor. 15:22, 23; 1 Thess. 4:14-17; Rev. 20:4, 11-15)

The Ascension

We believe that Jesus Christ, after He arose from among the dead, ascended bodily to the throne of God. (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21)

The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the return of the Lord will be in two phases. First, He shall appear prior to the Tribulation in bodily form in the air to call up the believing Church to be with Himself. (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev 3:10)

The second phase will be His return to the earth with His Church prior to the Millennium resulting in the establishment of His kingdom on earth, and with flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God. (Zech. 14:3, 4; Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience and coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. (Dan. 3:17, 18; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; Phil. 2:10, 11; Titus 3:1; Rev. 1:5)

The Miraculous Gifts

We believe that certain miraculous sign gifts were only given for the apostolic age to authenticate the authority of the apostles. These gifts are:

- (1) speaking in tongues (known language) (Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor. 14:10-12)
- (2) prophecy, and
- (3) performance of healings, miracles, signs, and wonders [authenticate God's messenger (prophet, apostle, etc.)] (Deut. 18:15-22, 13:1-5; Heb. 2:3-4)

Therefore, we do not believe that the general exercise of these gifts in the present day is of the Spirit of God. (Mark 16:19-20, 1 Cor. 13:8-10, Heb. 2:1-4 [Signs of an apostle: 2 Cor. 12:12])

Church Practice

The History

Denbigh Baptist Church has faithfully represented Jesus Christ on the Peninsula since its founding in 1635—almost 400 years! We have seen much growth and expansion over the years, both in structure and in people. However, our greatest joy and privilege has been sending out a number of missionaries and full-time workers, baptizing numerous individuals, and watching God bring many people to know Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

The Distinctives

Baptist – [Refer to “Doctrine-Baptism and the Lord’s Supper”]

Independent – [Refer to “Doctrine-the Church”]

The Structure

The Head – Jesus Christ

Denbigh Baptist Church belongs to Jesus Christ, not to any person or group. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ is the head of the body, which is the church. We therefore submit ourselves to His ultimate authority and leadership. (Matt. 16:18, Col. 1:18)

The Pastors – His shepherds

The Pastors are given the primary responsibility of leadership within the church. The role of the pastor is to oversee the ministry and show by his example how to minister. Pastors are to be men of godly character who lead by example and provide the spiritual direction for the church. They are to teach the Word; provide leadership and direction; and train God’s people for ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Pet. 5:1-3)

The Deacons – His servants

The word “deacon” in the Bible means servant. The Deacons serve alongside the pastors as the leadership team for the church. They are to be men of godly character who lead by their example, assist in the ministry, and meet needs as they arise in the church. (1 Tim. 3:1-10)

The People – His body and ministers

Every member of our church is an important part of this body or family. We are the physical manifestation of Christ in the world and it is

our goal to come together as a unified body to use our giftedness to serve the Lord. (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Every church member is to be a minister in the lives of people and the ministries of the church. The role of the church member is to carry out the ministries of the church. The church goes forward not only on the strength of its leadership, but also on the involvement of its people. (Eph. 4:12, 16).

Church Purpose

“Worshipping God by making disciples”

“Our purpose, as a fellowship united in our Lord Jesus Christ, is to worship God through evangelism and discipleship by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Church Core Values

- Faithful, enthusiastic preaching and teaching (2 Tim. 4:2)
- God exalting, Spirit-infused worship (Ps. 145:1-7)
- Significant, focused commitment to the Great Commission (Mk. 16:15)
- Purposeful discipleship and leadership training (Matt. 28:19, 20)
- Individual and corporate attention to the Great Commandment (Jn. 13:34, 35)
- Intentional, creative outreach (1 Pet. 3:15)
- Concentrated devotion to prayer (Acts 2:42)

Church Process

COME

Denbigh has new first time visitors almost every Sunday morning. We are excited about these guests and want to enthusiastically welcome them. Most importantly we want to see people come into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This happens as each believer engages in one on one relationship with others to share the gospel. Another way this happens in believers inviting others to a church worship service where the gospel is proclaimed.

CONFESS

Once someone has come from spiritual death to spiritual life by grace through faith in Christ, then it is our desire to see them confess that faith. The Scriptures tell us that happens first through public declaration by baptism. However, this confession is never lived in isolation, so it is our goal to get them connected to a small group, either Sunday School or Care Group. These groups are set up intentionally to give people a chance to Learn, Grow, and Serve together.

COVENANT

After people have confessed their faith through baptism and continue to do so in community the desire is to then see them partner with Denbigh members and become part of the family through the covenant of membership.

Discovering Denbigh class – Membership Application and Interview – Membership Affirmation

CONTRIBUTE

The desire is for each covenanted member of Denbigh to be growing and maturing daily and as they do this to contribute in service to others and lead others in their walks with Christ. There are many ways to contribute at Denbigh:

- Welcome Center – Greeting guests, providing information, and giving welcome gifts
- Hospitality – Providing meals for church functions, individuals, and funerals
- Outreach Events – Weekly door-to-door visits, VBS, etc.

- Property and Facilities Team – maintaining/replacing of property, facilities, and vehicles
- Administrative Support – organization, planning, preparation, and data management
- Nursery and Children’s Church (4 years old through 5th grade)
- AWANA – children’s ministry age 3-6th grade, activities, memory verse, and lesson
- Denbigh Baptist Christian School – varying opportunities
- Information Technology – Computer updating, networking, audio and video ministry
- Music and Worship – Choir, worship team, instruments, special music
- Pastor’s Prayer Partners – Meet Sunday morning to pray for pastors, leaders, and others
- Care Group Facilitator
- Sunday School Teacher
- School Management Team
- Financial Management Team
- Deacon



Church Covenant

Expectations

- Contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered
- Do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith
- Sanctify the Lord's Day by diligent devoted attendance in public worship at this church
- Support the work and activities of the church financially and in serving
- Keep the ordinances as delivered by Christ
- Pray faithfully for fellow believers and church leaders
- Preserve the name of Christ and Denbigh Baptist by a consistent Christian walk

Applications

- Regularly attend the services of the church
- Pray faithfully for the church, its pastors, and its ministries
- Become part of a Sunday school class or care group
- Volunteer to serve in one of the church ministries



Denbigh Baptist Church

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